

Public Health Committee Public Hearing

March 19, 2014

Testimony on Raised Bill 438, an Act Concerning Certification of Stroke Centers

Good afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Cynthia Rankins and I live in New Britain, CT and I am here today to ask for your support for **Senate Bill 438, an Act Concerning Certification of Stroke Centers.**

My mother had a stroke about a month ago. I was getting ready for work about 7:00 am and when I went in her room to check on her I found her slumped over on her bed and she could not move or speak. I immediately called 911 and when the paramedics got to my house they started checking her vital signs and thought maybe it was her blood sugar. But it wasn't so they said it may be stroke and we should go right to the hospital, and I followed. At the ER the hospital doctor quickly checked my mother. She still did not respond so they ordered her a CT scan and they told me she was having a stroke. My mother couldn't speak or move her right side and she only responded to a pinch to her left side and she was not awake. The doctor ordered the drug TPA to be given, and within 45 minutes after she got it she was more awake but she still could not respond or speak. After about an hour she was then moving her right side and understanding what we were saying to her. By the next morning she was talking and understanding and trying to tell the family what happened to her. She was in the hospital for 5 days and every day she improved. After 5 days she was able to come home where she lives with me. It was like a miracle!

The ER staff worked very fast to help my mother and I am very grateful for that. I hope that every hospital in Connecticut has this TPA for Stroke patients and are able to use it as fast as they did for my mother.

With therapy my mother is almost back to her old self. Please pass this bill. Look at my mom; she is proof that this is a very good thing.

Thank you.